

Washington, DC -- On Friday, May 1, 2009, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) will present local athlete Erin Hamlin with copies of the Congressional Record statement honoring her for her World Luge Championship victory.

Presentation of Congressional Record Statement

Date: Friday, May 1, 2009
Time: 4pm
Location: ADK Physical Therapy, 8022 State RT 12 Barneveld, NY 13304
Contact: Robin Carey, 315-896-5100

Erin Hamlin of Remsen, NY won the gold medal in the women's World Luge Championship at Lake Placid, NY on February 6, 2009.

Text of the Congressional Record congratulating Hamlin can be found below:

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young athlete, Erin Hamlin, on her victory in the 41st Luge World Championship in Lake Placid, New York on February 6th, 2009.

Erin snapped a twelve-year German winning streak by posting times of 44.113 and 43.985 seconds, a new Lake Placid track record, for a combined time of one minute, 28.098 seconds. She is one of only two U.S. athletes ever to win a luge world crown.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Erin, who was born in New Hartford and raised in Remsen, both in New York's 24th Congressional District. In 1999, at the age of 12, Erin was introduced to the sport of luge through a Verizon/USA Luge Slider Search in Syracuse, New York. After being selected to a development team, she began training in Lake Placid.

Erin earned two Junior National Championship titles and a collection of Junior World Cup medals as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team from 2003 to 2006 and as a competitor on the Junior World Cup Circuit from 2002 to 2005. After making the World Cup Team in the fall of 2005, Erin earned a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team. At the Winter Games in Torino, Italy she slid to a 12th place finish, and was named to the Senior National Team the following season. Erin is also the reigning 2008 Verizon U.S. National Champion.

The accomplishments of Erin and the entire USA Luge team cannot be applauded without commending the efforts of their coaching staff. Senior National Team Head Coach Wolfgang Schaedler, Assistant Coach Klim Gatker, and Team Manager Fred Zimny guided the USA Luge team to victory this year. On behalf of my colleagues in Congress and all of Upstate New York, I wish to congratulate this team on their success and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues join me in congratulating Erin Hamlin and the entire USA Luge Team, and to support them in their future endeavors as they continue to inspire athletes across the country.

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